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## Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable WILLIAM M. COWAN, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Our Father, we honor Your wonderful Name. The angels bow before You; Heaven and Earth adore You. Your voice echoes over the oceans and thunders above the roar of the raging sea.

We pray today, O God, for the families of the dozens killed in the massive tornado in Oklahoma. Bring healing to the injured and comfort to those who mourn.

Today, may our Senators honor You with worthy service. By their words and actions, empower them to glorify Your Name. Lord, guide them with Your loving providence, as they trust in Your wisdom and might. May they commit themselves to Your will and leave the results to You.

We pray in Your merciful Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable WILLIAM M. COWAN led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, May 21, 2013.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

appoint the Honorable WILLIAM M. COWAN, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,  
President pro tempore.

Mr. COWAN thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

### OKLAHOMA TORNADOES

Mr. REID. Mr. President, yesterday afternoon I called home to check to see how things were going, visited with my wife a little bit.

She said: You can't imagine what I am watching on TV. It is hard to watch.

She was talking about the terrible storm that hit Oklahoma, the devastation and deaths, the injuries. She tried to explain to me. It was hard to relate even though she was watching it on TV. Homes were destroyed, schools were destroyed, even elementary schools were destroyed.

I think what Landra did was she described how all of America feels and felt upon watching it. Our hearts go out to the families whose loved ones were lost. The extent of that we don't know. We are still waiting. Those missing in the devastating tornadoes in Oklahoma, we feel so sad for them. Our thoughts are with those who were affected by this tragedy, and so many people have been affected. Families are still searching for their family members, their children.

I recognize and commend the heroic efforts of the first responders who rushed to the scene and have been working tirelessly to help those who were injured. They worked all night. Of course, they are still searching for the missing. I commend the efforts of

neighbors, everyday citizens, young and old, who have been heroic in helping.

Although we may not know the extent of the damage now, we will continue to do everything in our power to help the people of Oklahoma as they recover from these terrible tornadoes, these acts of nature. I will stand vigilant today and tomorrow, ready to help as more storms threaten the region.

Every Federal resource will be made available to help the communities affected by this tragedy. I look forward to hearing the President—his speech will start momentarily—on the disaster. I am pleased that FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate is already in Oklahoma assessing the extent of the damage and deciding how the Federal Government can best assist.

I will continue to monitor the search and rescue efforts. Whenever tragedy strikes any part of our Nation, it really strikes us all. I pledge to the people of Oklahoma my continued support, our continued support, as they begin to recover from this awful storm.

### SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Following leader remarks today the Senate will be in a period of morning business for 1 hour. The majority will control the first half, the Republicans the final half. Upon conclusion of morning business, the Senate will resume consideration of S. 954, the farm bill. I spoke to Chairman STABENOW last night. She indicated that she believes there is an opportunity to finish the bill, even this week. I certainly hope that is the case. The Senate will recess from 12:30 to 2:15 today to allow for our weekly caucus meetings.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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